

Bridging Rental Assistance Program
Department of Health & Human Services—Adult Mental Health
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mh/Housing/home.html>

Bridging Rental Assistance Program
Program Summary

The Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is a housing program developed by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). It was established in recognition that people with psychiatric disabilities are often unable to afford to rent safe, decent, and sanitary housing of their choice in the community. BRAP is designed to assist individuals with housing assistance for up to 24 months or until they are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher) or other federal subsidy, whichever comes first. For this reason, units subsidized by BRAP funding must meet Housing Choice Voucher requirements (within Fair Market Rent and Housing Quality Standards) so recipients may continue to reside in their apartments once awarded a voucher, if they so choose.

Program participants pay 51% of their income for rent. BRAP subsidizes the remaining portion of the rent up to the Fair Market Rent.

BRAP Eligibility

I. DHHS requires that recipients of BRAP meet the following criteria:

1. Class Members of the AMHI Consent Decree; OR
2. Adults with Severe and Disabling Mental Illness who meet Eligibility For Care Criteria for Community Support Services as defined in Section 17.02 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual

II. DHHS requires that all recipients of BRAP also meet the following conditions:

- a. Adults who are receiving or are in the process of being (re-)instated for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)—in cases where applicants have no current SSI/SSDI or other income source, documentation of General Assistance or another source of income (TANF, Employment, etc) must be in place or documentation of conditional approval must be present; and
- b. Applicants must have previously applied for Federal Section 8 Rental Assistance through their local Public Housing Authority or other local Section 8 administering agency. If the wait list is closed, the applicant may be eligible for a waiver of this eligibility criterion provided that he/she agrees to and completes a Section 8 application at time of opening. Section 8 wait list status must be maintained to continue to receive BRAP assistance.

Note: Providing eligibility criteria has been met, any previous BRAP recipient may re-apply for subsidy, as long as he or she is in good standing with any housing subsidy program administered by DHHS (Bridging Rental Assistance Program &/or Shelter Plus Care) and has not exceeded the maximum 24-month allocation. Applicants who owe any DHHS subsidy program for back rent, damages, security, etc., may be considered for readmission providing that at least one of the following minimum criteria have been met:

- a. 50% of account balance must be paid before move in. The remaining balance must be paid over a term not to exceed 12 months; or
- b. Establishment of a Representative Payee and a documented payment plan not to exceed 12 months; or
- c. Charges have been adjudicated through the BRAP Appeals or DHHS Grievance Process.

Priorities

BRAP funds will be provided on a priority basis to eligible individuals only within each priority level on a ranked basis, as indicated below:

1. Eligible people who are leaving State psychiatric institutions (AMHI, BMHI); and individuals in private psychiatric hospital beds; or those who have been discharged in the last six months from any of these institutions.
2. Eligible people who are homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance act as funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (See Appendix 2).
3. Eligible people who are living in Substandard Housing in the community, as defined by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (See Appendix 3).
4. Eligible people who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.

Department of Health and Human Services

Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) and Shelter Plus Care

Local Administrative Agents

Aroostook County	James McClay AMHC SkyHaven 2 Airport Drive Presque Isle, Maine 04769 207-764-0759
Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford, and Northern Cumberland County	Karen Bate-Pelletier Common Ties 140 Canal Street Lewiston, ME 04240 207-795-6051
Cumberland County	Melany Mondello Shalom House, Inc. 400 Congress St., PO Box 560 Portland, Maine 04112 207-874-1080
Lincoln, Sagadahoc Counties & Brunswick, Harpswell, Freeport	Rita Defio Sweetser MH 18 Pleasant Street Brunswick, Maine 04011 207-373-3049
Penobscot, Washington, Hancock, Piscataquis Counties	Sandra Kimball Community Health and Counseling 42 Cedar St., PO Box 425 Bangor, ME 04402 207-947-0366
Somerset, Northern Kennebec Counties	Barbara Worthley Kennebec Valley Mental Health 67 Eustis Parkway Waterville, Maine 04901 207-873-2136
Southern Kennebec County	Susanne Thomas Motivational Services PO Box 229 Augusta, Maine 04332 207-626-3465
Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc Counties &	Rita Defio

Brunswick, Harpswell, Freeport	Sweetser MH 18 Pleasant Street Brunswick, Maine 04011 207-373-3049
York County	Ginny Dill Counseling Services, Inc. PO Box 1010 Saco, ME 04072 207-282-6126